

Arizona Department of Education Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane M. Douglas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Superintendent Diane Douglas Welcomes New Director of Indian Education

(Phoenix, Ariz., July 16, 2015) – Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas is pleased to announce that Nadine Groenig has been named the Arizona Department of Education's (ADE's) new Director of Indian Education.

"I am excited to work with Nadine to ensure that Arizona's Native American students receive an excellent education that embraces their unique needs," Superintendent Douglas said. "She has years of experience working with tribal communities and has been a longtime advocate for advancing Native American educational opportunities."

An enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna in New Mexico, Groenig joined the Department in 2002. In her 13 years with ADE, she has worked directly with Johnson-O'Malley Indian Education grants in addition to several other federal initiatives.

In 2007, Groenig founded the Southwestern Institute for the Education of Native Americans (SIENA), a nonprofit dedicated to developing the next generation of Native American leaders at home, at school and in the community through culturally rich programs. She has served on the Committee for the National Forum on Dropout Prevention for Native and Tribal Communities, the American Indian Advisory Committee for the Heard Museum and various other committees and organizations related to Native American issues. She is also a member of the National Indian Education Association.

"I am excited to be able to bring my years of experience, my knowledge and resources and my passion to addressing the needs of Arizona's Native American student population," Groenig said. "My vision for Arizona's Native American students is that they be well-educated, healthy, confident individuals with a strong sense of cultural identity, self-worth and the belief that their goals and dreams are attainable. By working closely with the Native American community, I believe we can help make that vision a reality."

In her new role, Groenig will collaborate with Superintendent Douglas' Native American Education Action Committee to address issues affecting Native students. She will also help lead the Committee's efforts to integrate Native culture and history across academic subjects so that all Arizona children can develop an appreciation for their fellow students' unique backgrounds.